

[Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu]

[24th January 1928]

"Secondly, Sir, the other proposition covers all the grounds that can possibly be advanced by any section of the House. I therefore earnestly appeal to my friend not to press his amendment."

* **MR. RAMANATH GOENKA** :—"Mr. President, Sir, I rise to support the amendment of Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar. In doing so, I should like to answer the proposition put before us by the hon. Member from Cocanada. Sir, he has admitted that as the Commission is constituted at present, he himself is not prepared to agree and that if it is constituted in some other way, he might consider. So, this amendment 'as it is at present constituted' ought to be acceptable to Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti. In supporting this amendment, I wish to make a few observations. I make them not as a politician but as a businessman, and all the same as an Indian.

"The time and the manner in which the Statutory Commission was appointed has resulted in a wild storm of protest in India and the movement for the boycott of the Simon Commission has received the support of every political party worth the name. I do not believe there is any section in this House which will ignore or deny it. I believe every section of this House is prepared except the non-official Europeans and the so-called depressed classes, to boycott the Simon Commission on one ground or another and with some modification or other. As has been explained by Mr. T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar, our object in putting up this amendment is to make it acceptable to all sections of the House.

"Sir, we are asked by the Government to believe that the Statutory Commission is the best commission that India can expect. I would like to state honestly and candidly that we have not the slightest confidence in the Simon Commission. (Mr. S. Satyamurti: 'Hear, hear.') We do not believe that they possess any knowledge of India or Indian conditions or have any sympathy for Indian aspirations. Sir John Simon may be the greatest constitutional lawyer and an able advocate. But, in my opinion, to have too clever a lawyer is always a dangerous thing. (Laughter.)

"Mr. President, as I said once, and I repeat it once again, in this House, there are only two sections, one the non-official and the other the so-called depressed classes who are against the boycott of the Commission. As a businessman, Sir, I must say that the non-official Europeans are the best and the most honest business people. They are most straightforward and in business, I should prefer Europeans to Indians. But, I say, what I feel in my heart of hearts, rightly or wrongly, whether my views carry weight with others or not I only say what I feel. Now, Sir, may I ask them one simple question? Have they ever stood up on the side of the Indian people against the British Government?

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Hear, hear. That is their honesty."

* **MR. RAMANATH GOENKA** :—"I was only referring to their business honesty."

MR. S. SATYAMURTI :—"Parliamentary honesty."

* **MR. RAMANATH GOENKA** :—"I cannot recall one single instance, Sir, in which they have supported us in our quarrels with the Government except in one or two commercial matters in which it touched their pockets. (Laughter and Swarajists: 'Hear, hear.') In 1919 when Mr. Montagu arrived in India, what did the non-official Europeans do? Did they not get into a panic and

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protest against further reforms for India? Did the European community in Calcutta extend a hearty welcome to Mr. Montagu? I remember they made appeals in the Anglo-Indian papers to boycott Mr. Montagu. The European Association would not give even a social welcome to Mr. Montagu. They said they were prepared to welcome Lord Chelmsford but not Mr. Montagu. And now, how can the Europeans refuse to boycott the Simon Commission when they themselves were for the boycott of the Montagu Commission? I refuse to believe that our European friends who stand for welcoming it are really disinterested. It is to their interest to see that Indians do not get the control of the Government. Therefore nothing is surprising in the attitude taken by the non-official Europeans in India. I for one do not care what they say or do, because we can very well afford to ignore them. (Swarajists: 'Hear, hear.')

"Mr. President, the non-official Europeans, as I said, were opposed to the grant of reforms in 1919 on the ground that Indians were not fit for them. Sir, what has been the experience of the past eight years? We have proved that it is not we that are unfit for the reforms, but the reforms given are unfit for us. Mr. President, they were not reforms which were worth the name. Yet, it was shown that Indians can work successfully even an unworkable reforms. Then, why did the non-official Europeans question our fitness, except for their own selfish ends? Sir, I think I have to say only one thing more on the attitude of the representatives of the depressed classes, and I will say it on the final amendment which will be before the House."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"In that case, the hon. Member will simply have to confine himself to the addition of the words 'as it is at present constituted'."

* Mr. RAMANATH GOENKA:—"Sir, I do so."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The House will now adjourn and re-assemble to-morrow at 11 a.m."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

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APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 1346 asked by Mr. L. K. Tulasiram at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th January 1928, page 136 supra.]

Board's Standing Orders, Volume II, page 694, Appendix IX to Standing Order No. 204, paragraph 3—*Substitute the following for the existing statement.*

Statement showing the scale of fees for stamping weights and measures.

Districts.	Rates of fees.			Districts.	Rates of fees.		
	RS.	A.	P.		RS.	A.	P.
Ganjam * ... ..	...	...	...	Arcot, South	0	0	6
Vizagapatam * ... ..	...	...	...	Chittoor	0	1	6
Godavari, East	0	1	0	Arcot, North	0	1	0
Godavari, West	0	1	0	Salem	0	1	6
Kistna	0	1	0	Coimbatore	0	1	0
Guntur	0	1	0	Trichinopoly	0	1	0
Kurnool	0	1	0	Tanjore	0	0	6
Bellary	0	1	6	Madura	0	1	0
Anantapur	0	1	0	Ramnad	0	1	0
Cuddapah	0	1	0	Tinnevely	0	1	0
Nellore	0	1	0	Malabar * ... ..	...	...	...
Madras	0	1	0	South Kanara	0	1	6
Chingleput	0	0	6	The Nilgiris * ... ..	...	...	...

NOTE.—(1) Pies will be rounded off to the next higher anna in the case of each demand.

(2) These rates will be in force for a period of two years with effect from 1st April 1928.

* No stamping party is at work in the district.

APPENDIX II.

[Vide answer to question No. 1351 asked by Mr. K. V. R. Swami at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 24th January 1928, page 138 supra.]

Notification No. 63, dated 7th December 1927.

Under the provisions of section 78 of the Indian Registration Act XVI of 1908, as amended by subsequent Acts, the Government are pleased to make, with effect from the 1st January 1928, the undermentioned alterations